

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An expandable intraluminal stent for implantation in a blood vessel comprising:

a main body portion having a metal surface wherein the surface has a first end portion, a second end portion and a middle portion;

a flow passage defined therethrough; and

a biocompatible coating directly on at least the first end portion of the metal surface of the main body portion, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises a polymer or a drug, and wherein the middle portion of the surface is free of any biocompatible coating material when the stent is implanted.

2-90. (Canceled).

91. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises apertures or perforations.

92. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible coating comprises a plurality of layers comprising at least one coating material.

93. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 92, wherein the plurality of layers comprises the same coating material.

94. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 92, wherein the plurality of layers comprises different coating materials.

95. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a bioadhesive.

96. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a gel-like material.

97. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the drug is paclitaxel, an RGD peptide-containing compound, tranilast, trapidil, probucol, or a combination thereof.

98. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the main body portion has a first end portion, a middle portion and a second end portion, and wherein the first end portion of the main body portion is more flexible than the middle portion of the main body portion.

99. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the main body portion has a first end portion, a middle portion and a second end portion, and wherein the first end portion of the main body portion and middle portion of the main body portion are comprised of a mesh, and wherein the mesh of the first end portion is looser than the mesh of the middle portion.

100. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is balloon-expandable.

101. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the metal comprises stainless steel.

102. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 98, wherein the first end portion is made of a first metal, and the middle portion is made of a second metal; and wherein the first metal is more flexible than the second metal.

103. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 102 wherein the second end portion is made of the first metal.

104. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 102 wherein the second end portion is made of a third metal, and wherein the third metal is more flexible than the second metal.